

October 29, 2021

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State U.S.  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW Washington, D.C. 20520

**Re: Letter from U.S. Organizations & Leaders in Solidarity with Palestinian Civil Society**

Dear Secretary Blinken:

The undersigned U.S.-based social justice, civil rights, and human rights leaders and organizations write to demand that you immediately and unequivocally condemn the Israeli government's recent decision to outlaw and criminalize six Palestinian human rights and community-based organizations.

The Palestinian organizations currently targeted under the Israeli government's draconian 2016 Counter-Terrorism Law<sup>1</sup> form part of the bedrock of Palestinian civil society that has been protecting and advancing Palestinian human rights for decades across the full spectrum of issues of global concern, including children's rights, prisoners' rights, women's rights, socio-economic rights, the rights of farmworkers, justice and accountability for international crimes. They are: Defense for Children International - Palestine, Al Haq, Addameer, Bisan Center for Research and Development, Union of Agricultural Work Committees, and Union of Palestinian Women's Committees.<sup>2</sup> They are trusted partners in our collective work to secure human rights for all.

The Biden administration has repeatedly expressed a commitment to center and promote human rights worldwide and protect the role of civil society. These actions by the Israeli government are a clear attack on human rights. As such, we urge you to issue a swift rejection of this unprecedented attack on Palestinian human rights organizations and the attempt by the Israeli government to shut down, delegitimize, isolate, and chill a growing human rights movement. We agree with 17 UN Special Rapporteurs that "the freedoms of association and expression must be fully respected in order to enable civil society to perform its indispensable work, and cannot be undermined by the manifestly egregious misuse of counterterrorism and security legislation."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Adalah - The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, "Anti-Terror" (Counter-terrorism) Law." *Discriminatory Laws in Israel*. Available online: <https://www.adalah.org/en/law/view/598>

<sup>2</sup> Palestinian NGO Network and Palestinian Human Rights Organization Council, "PNGO & PHROC: Israel's Sinister Designation of 6 Leading Palestinian Organizations As "Terror Organizations" is an Attempt to Silence and Control Palestinians," October 23, 2021. Available online: <https://www.pngo.net/?p=3774&lang=en>

<sup>3</sup> OHCHR. "UN experts condemn Israel's designation of Palestinian human rights defenders as terrorist organisations," October 25, 2021. Available online: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27702&LangID=E>

Smearing the promotion and defense of human rights as "terrorist" activity is a dangerous, well-worn tactic of authoritarian regimes and a shameful political maneuver to undermine the vital work of these organizations. In a [joint statement](#), Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International called the move "appalling and unjust" and "an alarming escalation that threatens to shut down the work of Palestine's most prominent civil society organizations" and linked Israel's emboldened authoritarian actions to decades of inadequate responses by the international community to Israel's ongoing grave human rights abuses. This should change.

As groups committed to social justice, civil rights, and universal human rights, we have seen first hand the ways that the charge of "terrorist" and the so-called "war on terror" threatens not only international human rights defenders, but also social movements and marginalized communities here in the U.S.: Indigenous, Black, brown, Muslim, and Arab activists and communities have similarly faced silencing, intimidation, criminalization and surveillance under such baseless charges. A threat against the Palestinian human rights movement is a threat against movements for social justice everywhere, and in order to protect human rights and human rights defenders, all states must be held accountable for taking such manifestly unjust actions. While our government has long offered unconditional support to the Israeli government,<sup>4</sup> our movements and organizations will always stand first and foremost with the rights and safety of people.

Therefore, we the undersigned organizations and individuals, call on you as Secretary of State, to:

1. Affirm that the Biden administration's commitment to human rights has universal applicability;
2. Issue a public statement that rejects the Israeli government's false accusations levied against Palestinian civil society organizations;
3. Publicly condemn and rebuke Israel for this authoritarian action, and call on Israeli authorities to immediately reverse their decision and end all efforts aimed at delegitimizing and criminalizing Palestinian human rights defenders;
4. Support Palestinians seeking the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights, justice and accountability, including at the International Criminal Court.

Sincerely,

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<sup>4</sup> Nadya Tannous, *Al-Shabaka*, [Policy Brief: Restricting US Military Aid to Israel in the Age of Normalization](#), September 14, 2021

### ***National Organization Signers***

About Face: Veterans Against the War  
Action Center on Race & the Economy  
ActionAid USA  
Adalah Justice Project  
Alliance for Water Justice in Palestine  
American Friends Service Committee  
American Muslim Bar Association  
American Muslim Empowerment Network (AMEN)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Americans for Justice in Palestine Action  
Amnesty International USA  
Arab Resource & Organizing Center (AROC)  
Armenian-American Action Network  
BackYard Mishkan  
Beit Sahour USA  
Catalyst Project  
Center for Constitutional Rights  
Center for Jewish Nonviolence  
Charity & Security Network  
Civil Liberties Defense Center  
Coalition for an Ethical Psychology  
CODEPINK  
Committee in Solidarity with the People of Syria - CISPOS  
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism  
Corporate Accountability Lab  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN)  
Detention Watch Network  
Disciples Palestine Israel Network  
Dissenters  
DonkeySaddle Projects  
DSA BDS & Palestine Working Group  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship  
Episcopal Peace Fellowship - Palestine Israel Network  
Eyewitness Palestine  
Family Farm Defenders  
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA)  
Feminists for Justice in Palestine  
Fight for the Future  
Free Democratic Palestine Movement  
Freedom Forward  
Friends of Sabeel North America ( FOSNA)  
Friends of the MST (US)  
Front Line Defenders  
Global Justice Center  
Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ  
Grassroots Global Justice Alliance  
Grassroots International  
Hindus for Human Rights  
Historians for Peace and Democracy  
Human Rights Watch  
ICAHD-USA  
ICNA Council for Social Justice  
IfNotNow  
Indigenous World Association  
International Association of Democratic Lawyers  
International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR)  
FIDH, within the framework of the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders  
Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Jahalin Solidarity  
Jetpac Resource Center  
Jewish Liberation Theology Institute  
Jewish Voice for Peace  
Jewish Voice for Peace Action  
Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council (JVP HAC)  
Jewish Voice for Peace/Vermont-New Hampshire chapter  
Jews for Palestinian Right of Return  
Just Foreign Policy  
Just Vision  
Justice Democrats  
Justice for All  
JVP Havurah Network  
Kairos USA  
Kohenet Hebrew Priestess Institute

Labor for Palestine  
MADRE  
Media Education Foundation  
MediaJustice  
Middle East Children's Alliance  
Mosquito Fleet  
Movement for Black Lives  
Movement Law Lab  
MPower Change  
National Association of Democratic Lawyers  
(South Africa)  
National Family Farm Coalition  
National Iranian American Council  
National Lawyers Guild  
National Network for Immigrant & Refugee  
Rights  
National Students for Justice in Palestine  
Network in Solidarity with the People of  
Guatemala  
NOVACT International Institute for Nonviolent  
Action  
On Earth Peace  
Our Revolution  
Our Sacred Circles (OSC)  
Oxfam America  
Palestine Legal  
Palestinian Alliance for Peace  
Palestinian American Organizations Network  
Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace  
Palestinian Feminist Collective  
Palestinian Youth Movement  
PARCEO  
Partnership for Civil Justice Fund  
Pax Christi USA  
Peace Action  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Progressive Democrats of America

Project on Middle East Democracy (POMED)  
Project South  
Quaker Palestine Israel Network-Portland  
Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice  
ReThinking Foreign Policy, Inc.  
Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network  
Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together  
(SAALT)  
Sunrise Movement  
The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship  
U.S. Labor Against Racism and War  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle  
East  
United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network  
United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church  
Ministries  
United Methodists for Kairos Response (UMKR)  
US Campaign for Palestinian Rights  
US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural  
Boycott of Israel (USACBI)  
U.S. Palestinian Community Network (USPCN)  
US Palestinian Council  
USA Palestine Mental Health Network  
Veterans For Peace  
Win Without War  
Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom US  
Women's International League of Freedom  
Working Families Party  
World Can't Wait  
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT),  
within the framework of the Observatory for the  
Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

### ***Local Organization Signers***

1for3.org  
Agroecology for All - California  
American Iranian Friendship Committee (AIFC)

Arab American Civic Council  
AZPal  
Bay Area Women in Black

Black Christians For Palestine  
Black Lives Matter Philly  
Brooklyn For Peace  
Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture Ethical  
Action Committee  
California Scholars for Academic Freedom  
Central Florida Popular Front  
Chavurah for a Free Palestine of Kehilla  
Community Synagogue  
Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political  
Repression  
Chicago Committee Against War & Racism  
Christian-Jewish Allies for a Just Peace for  
Israel-Palestine  
Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites - Seattle  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Committee for a Just Peace in Israel and  
Palestine  
Committees of Correspondence for Democracy  
and Socialism - Corvallis Chapter  
CommonWealth Kitchen  
Concerned Families of Westchester  
Corvallis Divest from War  
Corvallis Palestine Solidariy  
Coulee Region Coalition for Palestinian Rights  
Culture and Conflict Forum  
D8 for Justice  
Dallas Palestine Coalition  
Delawareans for Palestinian Human Rights  
Demilitarize Portland-to-Palestine  
Dream Defenders  
East Side Jews  
Ecumenical Peace Institute/Clergy and Laity  
Concerned  
Falastiniyat  
Florida Palestine Network  
Food in Neighborhoods Community Coalition  
Friends of Sabeel-Colorado  
Friends of Wadi Foquin  
Gay Liberation Network  
Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace  
Good Citizens Of DFW  
Green Mountain Solidarity With Palestine  
Green Party of Yavapai County

Harvard Black Graduate Student Alliance  
Harvard Divinity School Students for Justice in  
Palestine  
Human Rights Awareness: Palestine Israel/CD3  
(HRA:PI/CD3)  
Hurriyyah Collective  
Indiana Center for Middle East Peace  
Israel Palestine Mission Network of the  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Ithaca Committee for Justice in Palestine-Jewish  
Voice for Peace  
Jewish Alliance for Economic Justice  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Austin  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Boston  
Jewish Voice For Peace - Central Ohio  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Chicago  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Detroit  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Hudson Valley  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Indiana  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Knoxville  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Las Vegas  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Los Angeles  
Jewish Voice for Peace - New Haven  
Jewish Voice for Peace - New York City  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Portland  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Sacramento  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Santa Barbara  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Seattle  
Jewish Voice for Peace - South Bay  
Jewish Voice for Peace - South Florida  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Tacoma  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Triangle NC  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Tucson  
Jewish Voice for Peace - Twin Cities  
Jewish Voice for Peace - UCLA  
Jewish Voice For Peace - Westchester  
Jewish Voice for Peace Bay Area  
Jewish Voice for Peace Portland  
Jewish Voice for Peace San Diego Chapter  
Jewish Voice for Peace- Cleveland  
Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ)  
Jews Say No!  
Justice for Muslims Collective  
JVP-Central NJ chapter

Kairos Puget Sound Coalition  
Kavod Boston  
Kehilla Community Synagogue  
Linn-Benton Pacific Green Party  
Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land  
Madison-Rafah Sister City Project  
Main Street Legal Services, Inc.  
Meet a Muslim  
Middle East Crisis Response  
Minnesota Peace Project  
Missourians for Justice in Palestine (MJP)  
MSA West  
Mujeres Unidas y Activas  
Muslim Justice League  
Nevada Green Party USA  
Nevadans for Palestinian Human Rights  
New Hampshire Palestine Education Network  
NorCal Sabeel  
Northern New Jersey Jewish Voice for Peace  
Occupation Free DC  
Occupy Bergen County  
Oregon Coalition for Land and Peoples' Rights  
Our Revolution Colorado Springs CD5  
Our Revolution Florida  
Our Revolution Northern Virginia  
Pacific Green Party of Oregon  
Palestine Solidarity Committee - Seattle  
Palestine Teaching Trunk  
Palestinian American Community Center  
Parable of the Sower Intentional Community  
Cooperative  
PATOIS Film Festival, New Orleans  
Peace & Planet News  
Peace Action - Chicago Area  
Peace Action - New Hampshire  
Peace Action - New York State  
Peace Action - Wisconsin  
Pittsburgh Palestine Solidarity Committee  
Progressive Jews of St. Louis (ProJoSTL)  
Progressive Peace Coalition  
Queer Mikveh Project  
Reject Raytheon Asheville  
Rural Education Action Project, DBA Rural  
Vermont

Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian  
Rights  
Sacred Monsters Havurah  
Santa Feans for Justice in Palestine  
Schaumburg Area Progressives  
Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ) NYC  
St. Louis Friends of Bethlehem  
Students for Justice in Palestine - Rutgers New  
Brunswick  
Students for Justice in Palestine - Seattle  
University  
Students for Justice in Palestine - UMass  
Amherst  
SU Total Abolition Coalition  
SURJ Lower Columbia & SWWA  
Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville  
Syracuse Peace Council  
Tackling Torture at the Top  
The Holy Land Ministry at Spirit of Grace,  
Beaverton Oregon  
The Lace Midrash  
The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center  
Tikkun Olam Chavurah  
Tree of Life Educational Fund  
Tuck Away At Global Village Farm  
Tufts Students for Justice in Palestine  
Tzedek Chicago  
Unite Oregon  
United Methodists' Holy Land Task Force  
University of the Wild  
Veterans for Peace - Chapter 157 Eisenhower  
Veterans for Peace - Hector Black Chapter  
Veterans for Peace - Santa Fe Chapter  
Veterans For Peace - Smedley Butler Brigade  
Chapter 9  
Veterans For Peace Linus Pauling Chapter 132  
Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR)  
Voices for Justice in Palestine  
Washington Advocates for Palestinian Rights  
Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the  
Environment  
We Refuse to Be Enemies  
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club  
WESPAC Foundation, Inc.

White People for Black Lives  
White Coats for Black and Indigenous Lives  
Women Against Military Madness  
Women in Black Union Square  
Women of a Certain Age

Women's International League for Peace and  
Freedom - Minnesota Branch  
Yemeni Liberation Movement

***Partial list of individual signers - affiliations listed for identification purposes only***

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Sen. Dwight Bullard, Former Florida State Senator  
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Craig Corrie, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice  
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